How Much Snow Have We Missed Lately?

Project Title	How Much Snow Have We Missed Lately?
Project Summary	Love winter? Do you engage in snow sports? Have you ever wondered, with all the warm weather we've been having, how much snow we *could* have had if it weren't for the warmer weather? Analyze climate data to find out.
Country	United States
Agency	Geological Survey
DoS Office	N/A
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	2

Project Description

Snow is an important winter resource in the Northern Tier of the U.S.. It drives our winter economy through snow sports. Many wildlife species rely on snow to camouflage against predators. Many people simply appreciate the beauty of snow. But, with recent warming, snowfall amounts have been decreasing. This begs the question: if it weren't for all this warming, how much snow could we have gotten here in the Northeast U.S., where snow is prevalent? This question is key to understanding how various sectors are affected by changing snow conditions, from ecosystems to the economy. The e-intern(s) will work closely with climate scientists at USGS and the DOI Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC) to tackle this question.

The e-intern(s) will review the relevant scientific literature; read, process, and visualize a variety of climate data products; and report their findings in a summary document. Results will also be published on the NE CSC climate web page (http://necsc.umass.edu/northeast-climate). Time permitting, e-interns will work with wildlife species population data to identify relationships with changing snow conditions.

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

This internship is with the Department of the Interior's Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC), a partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The NECSC conducts research related to climate change impacts on wildlife and their habitats, as well as other ecosystems including forests and marine. More information about the NE CSC can be found at necsc.umass.edu.

Candidates with a strong interest in the natural sciences, especially climate science and change and/or wildlife ecology, are encouraged to apply. Strong programming proficiency in any language, such as R, Python, or MATLAB, is required.

Language Requirements

None